

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 221258
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 PCH-02 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 SES-02 SSO-00 INRE-00
/099 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RL

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

PA/PRS - MR. CARTER

H - MR. FLATEN

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/IAI - MR. KORN

NEA/ARN - MR. HOWELL

NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----034576 310157Z /64

O R 302302Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHARAHAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 221258

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
DOD
USICA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

UNCLAS STATE 221258

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 30

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 30, 1978. SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS KENNETH BROWN.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE VARIETY OF REPORTS ABOUT POSSIBLE PROPOSALS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, PARTICULARLY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 221258

THOSE INVOLVING AMERICAN PERSONNEL?

A. I ASSUME THAT YOU MAY BE ASKING A QUESTION WHICH WAS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPORT THAT JODY POWELL HAD SAID THAT THIS WAS AN OPTION THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING. ALL I HAVE FOR YOU ON THAT IS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT JODY HAS ISSUED A SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT ON THAT. AND, THEREFORE, SINCE THE ORIGINAL SPECULATION DID ARISE FROM THAT REPORTED STATEMENT -- I MEAN HIS EARLY REPORTED STATEMENT -- WE WOULD REFER QUERIES TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. DID HIS WHITE HOUSE ONE STATEMENT DENY WHAT HE HAD SAID EARLIER, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

A. I DON'T HAVE IT. I DON'T HAVE THE TEXT OF THE

STATEMENT, BUT IT WAS A CLARIFYING STATEMENT.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE A PLAN WHICH MAY BE PUT FORWARD NEXT WEEK THAT WOULD INCLUDE SENDING OR DISPATCHING AMERICAN FORCES TO THE WEST BANK AND SETTING UP A BASE IN THE SINAI?

A. YOU'LL HAVE TO ADDRESS IT TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. AS A CONCEPT, IS THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERING AS A POSSIBLE OPTION THE STATIONING OF AMERICAN TROOPS ON THE WEST BANK?

A. I CAN'T DEAL WITH IT BECAUSE I'M REFERRING YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THERE IS AN EXPIRY DATE IN THE SINAI II AGREEMENT FOR THE U.S. TROOPS STATIONED IN THE SINAI -- NOT THE TROOPS, THE OBSERVERS?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 221258

A. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. CAN YOU FIND OUT?

A. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION. (ANSWER PROVIDED: THERE IS NO EXPIRATION DATE).

Q. JUST TO CLARIFY, SO YOU ARE LETTING STAND ANY PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CONSIDERING STATIONING AMERICAN FORCES ON THE WEST BANK -- YOU'RE LETTING IT STAND, YOU'RE NOT DENYING IT?

A. WHAT I'M DOING IS SAYING THAT JODY POWELL, THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRESIDENT, IS HANDLING THAT QUERY AND YOU SHOULDN'T DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT MY DECLINING TO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. PEOPLE USED TO SAY FROM THIS PODIUM ON THIS SUBJECT, "YES, MAYBE AS A SUPPLEMENTARY ELEMENT, OR AGREEMENT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF CONGRESS, THE UNITED STATES "WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A --"

A. WHAT WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST IS THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO BE HELPFUL --

Q. YOU'VE SAID IN THE PAST WHAT I'VE SAID RIGHT NOW.

A. -- IF THE PARTIES WANTED US TO AND IF IT WERE APPROPRIATE IN A SETTLEMENT. BUT BECAUSE WE'RE TALKING RIGHT NOW ABOUT SPECIFIC REPORTS AND A SPECIFIC QUOTE, THAT'S WHY I'M RELUCTANT TO GO ANY FURTHER ON IT TODAY.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 221258

Q. MY CORRESPONDENTS IN FRANCE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH OFFICIALS THAT ISRAEL IS PLANNING WHAT THEY TERM A "SARAJEVO-STYLE" PROVOCATION IN LEBANON TO TORPEDO THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. DO YOU HAVE SUCH INFORMATION?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION OF WHAT THE SOVIET UNION IS PREPARED TO DO IF ISRAELI FORCES MOVE INTO LEBANON AND ENGAGE SYRIAN FORCES?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON WHAT SORT OF AGREEMENTS ARE BEING WORKED OUT BY SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM ON HIS CURRENT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION?

A. NO.

Q. IF ISRAEL MOVES PRECIPITOUSLY INTO LEBANON TO TORPEDO THE CAMP DAVID MEETING, ARE THEY ON THEIR OWN?

A. WHAT WE SAID YESTERDAY -- AND I REPEAT IT TODAY -- IS TO CALL FOR RESTRAINT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BOTH IN TERMS OF ACTION AND IN TERMS OF RHETORIC. WE WERE NOT POINTING THE FINGER AT ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ANY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT GENERAL RESTRAINT AND A GENERAL DAMPENING OF RHETORIC. I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION, AS MY NEWS SERVICE AND OTHERS DO, THAT BEGIN AND WEIZMAN HAVE OKAYED CHAMOUNISTS' PLANS TO CREATE A SEPARATE MARONITE STATE IN LEBANON?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 221258

A. NO.

Q. WHAT WOULD THE UNITED STATES' RESPONSE BE?

A. IF THAT WERE TO ARISE, I'M SURE THAT WE WOULD HAVE A RESPONSE, BUT I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

Q. WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED
TO US THEIR CONCERN WITH THE APPARENT COMPLACENCY OF
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD CURRENT ISRAELI POSTURE.
IS THE WHITE HOUSE BEING BLACKMAILED BY ISRAELI THREATS
TO GO TO WAR OR BY WATERGATE-STYLE THREATS FROM ZIONIST-
RELATED NETWORKS IN THIS COUNTRY?

A. NO.

Q. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND TWO OF HIS MINISTERS MET
TODAY WITH THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE U.S. EMBASSY
IN TEL AVIV AND WARNED HIM OR ASKED HIM TO ACT IN ORDER
TO PREVENT SYRIA FROM USING THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT IN
ORDER TO CRUSH DOWN ON THE CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON. DO
YOU HAVE ANY KIND OF REACTION ABOUT IT?

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT. CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS.

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NNN

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